

# NEWS

## Focus on regional dev to ease Dhaka's

FROM PAGE 3

She pointed out that 41 wards lack playgrounds, while chemical warehouses operate in residential zones and earthquake preparedness is absent.

Citing Bangladesh Institute of Planners data, she noted that Dhaka's green spaces have shrunk from 22 percent to 9 percent over the last 28 years.

Journalist MA Aziz warned that a 6.5 magnitude earthquake could cause 75 percent of Dhaka's buildings to collapse. He said illegal occupation of canals, lakes, waterbodies, and playgrounds has made the city dysfunctional.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party

of Bangladesh, said, "Without employment, education, healthcare, and environmental spaces across the country, sustainable solutions will not be possible."

Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Shihab Uddin Khan said, "Except in the diplomatic zone and a few posh neighbourhoods, Dhaka has no proper footpaths. Our ecosystem has collapsed, and regulatory laws are violated everywhere."

Former NBR chairman Dr Muhammad Abdul Mazid said three "Cs" are vital for saving Dhaka -- "Consistency in applying laws, coordination among agencies, and compliance with regulations without wasteful demolitions."

Moderating the event,

CGS President Zillur Rahman said, "For years, we have been promised visions of a smart city, but today, DAP (Detailed Area Plan) has become a new form of urban terror. Industries are being established in residential areas, and educational institutions are being built without proper planning. Policymakers seem to be mocking citizens with their approach to DAP."

Presenting the keynote paper, Parvez Karim Abbasi, executive director of CGS, said Dhaka is now the world's fourth most populous city. Despite contributing 8 percent to GDP, the real estate sector faces a demand-supply gap, rising costs, and restrictive regulations, he said.

Abbasi criticised the DAP, particularly its Floor Area Ratio rules, for raising housing costs and pushing urban sprawl.

"High FAR, when combined with transit-oriented development, mixed-use planning, and green building practices, can ensure compact, affordable, and sustainable cities," he said.

Abdur Razzaque, vice president (finance) of REHAB, said the DAP should serve as a unified framework for all citizens.

"At present, people are deprived of basic necessities. Whenever someone goes to Rajuk for approval or clearance, corruption becomes a barrier -- without money, no work moves forward," he said.

## Justice still

FROM PAGE 3

of expression, the restoration of their rights, and the establishment of an impartial judicial system. It is imperative that we work together to realise these goals."

Demanding justice for uprisings victims, Sabir Ahmed Lyon, a former student, said, "Just as people united for a discrimination-free Bangladesh, we must continue to work collectively to build a society founded on equality and justice."

PIB Director General Faruk Wasif said, "After the July uprising, due to a lack of proper planning, there is widespread disappointment. Public trust in this government has declined because of a mentality of wanting immediate results."

Presiding over the dialogue, BIP President Prof Adil Muhammad Khan said, "Even after half a century of independence, equality, human dignity, and social justice have not been fully realised. The 2024 mass movement opened doors to new possibilities, and it is crucial to continue working towards a discrimination-free and well-planned Bangladesh."

## 78 retired

FROM PAGE 4

Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

The Press Wing said the committee has recommended retrospective promotions for a total of 78 officers -- 12 to Grade-1 (secretary status), 32 to Grade-2, and 34 to Grade-3. Among them, six officers were recommended for promotion by three grades, 17 officers by two grades, and 55 officers by one grade.

Names of the officers were not disclosed.

It also said, "The committee did not recommend promotions for 132 officers."

These details were not shared with the media.

## Corruption

FROM PAGE 4

people's money couldn't be brought to book," he said, adding that vital state structures remain under foreign control.

"Unless action is taken against these profiteers, the energy sector will not be free from corruption," he added.

Energy adviser of CAB Prof M Shamsul Alam said they have filed at least 15 cases before the High Court to address injustices in the energy sector. "Despite powerful vested interests, we are continuing our efforts to hold the sector accountable," he said.

Mohammad Wahid Hossain, chairman of the Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council, said although the government provides subsidies to ensure energy rights for all, they often fail to reach the poor and marginalised. Instead, opportunists capture the benefits.

CAB treasurer Prof Manjur-e-Khoda Torofdar chaired the discussion, while students from different departments of Dhaka University shared their thoughts on energy justice.

## Panel to probe controversial

FROM PAGE 3

The inquiry committee will have to submit its report with opinions within seven working days.

In a statement, Mohammad Shahriar Siddiqui, director and main spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank, said, "If the allegations are proven on the basis of the investigation report, legal action will be taken against him."

In the meantime, in the interest of the investigation, the government has directed the BFIU chief to remain on leave, according to the BB statement.

On Tuesday, a section of Bangladesh Bank officials and employees submitted a memorandum to the governor. The memorandum stated that multiple objectionable videos of Shahinul circulating

on social media have severely damaged the image of the state and the institution.

Following the fall of the Awami League-led government, former BFIU chief Md Masud Biswas was forced to resign on August 8 last year amid protests from central bank officials.

The post remained vacant for a long time before Shahinul was appointed in January this year.

## Honouring the stellar women

FROM PAGE 3

was presented with this honour in the "Healthcare" category for her reconstructive work and research in the field of orthopaedic surgery.

In the latest season, several new award categories were introduced, reflecting the Stellar Women initiative's commitment to extending recognition each year and ensuring that deserving women from all

underrepresented sectors receive the spotlight they and their work deserve but are often denied.

This initiative also aims to build bridges between the past and present winners and participants, allowing them to use this expansive network to their advantage.

Nominations are still open across two categories, including "Environment" and "Agriculture". If you or

somebody you know deserves the recognition in either of these categories, you can register online for your chance at becoming the next Stellar Woman.

The event was attended by bti Managing Director FR Khan, Digital Growth Editor at The Daily Star

Abul Kalam Azad, and Executive Director of Brand and Communication Management at bti Aysa Siddiqui.

## Everything gone in blink

FROM PAGE 3

When this correspondent visited the spot around 4:00pm, more than 50 homes had already been reduced to ashes. Families, left with nothing, were seen running around in despair.

Jahan Begum said she, her husband, her son and daughter-in-law, and her daughter Rina -- six family members in total -- had been living in the slum for the past two years.

"Just last month, we bought a TV and fridge with our savings. Now everything is gone. I was most worried about my disabled daughter, but she managed to crawl out and survive -- that's the biggest relief," she said.

Jahan added that they rented a room from a man named Ali Hossain, who owns 72 shanties in the slum,

each housing one family. Besides him, homes owned by Parveen and another landlord are also rented out to slum dwellers.

At the time of the fire, Parveen's tenants -- Rani Khatun and her mother Mahamuda Khatun -- were at work in a garment factory. Rushing back after hearing the news, they found all their belongings destroyed.

"At least 50 shanties, including mine, have been burnt down. Everything was gone in the blink of an eye. In the afternoon, most people were away at work, only children and elderly people were in the slum," Rani told The Daily Star.

"Everyone was busy rescuing the children and elderly, so there was no way to save our belongings," she added.

The cause of the fire could not be confirmed immediately.

Contacted, Mohammad Ali, the on-duty officer at the fire service, said, "Locals first tried to douse the fire with water. It broke out around 2:30pm. Because of traffic, three units of the fire service reached the spot around 3:00pm."

"The fire trucks couldn't enter the slum, but by 3:18pm the blaze was under control. It took another hour, until 4:30pm, to completely extinguish it," he said.

Later, around 6:00pm, Tejgaon Fire Service's Senior Station Officer Nazimuddin Sarkar said, "Primary investigation suggests the fire started from a gas cylinder in a kitchen. We estimate that around 70 shanties have been burnt."

## Women, girls bear the brunt

FROM PAGE 3

workshop organised by Plan International Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

Unsafe drinking water remains a major concern, with 72 percent of households depending on saline-contaminated sources. Women and girls, in particular, bear the burden of long and unsafe journeys to collect water, the study said.

Sanitation facilities are also inadequate, with only 24.8 percent of households having access to improved facilities, further complicating menstrual hygiene management during emergencies.

Girls' education is being disrupted, as many are forced to spend hours fetching water or struggle with a lack of menstrual hygiene support, affecting their future opportunities.

Livelihoods in the region are under severe strain, with over 80 percent of households reporting income losses due to crop failure, aquaculture damage, and limited job opportunities. With scarce local employment, many young people are being forced into risky migration

to urban areas.

The study recommended several measures, including ensuring emergency-ready sexual and reproductive health services, training health workers and youth volunteers, establishing safe spaces for girls and women, and integrating menstrual health into school disaster-preparedness plans.

It also advised expanding rainwater harvesting, supporting women-led desalination projects, forming gender-balanced water user groups, and providing affordable reusable sanitary products through school-based social enterprises.

The study further called for climate-smart agriculture and eco-aquaculture training, linking women and youth producers to green supply chains, and ensuring their inclusion in government safety-net programmes through advocacy and digital platforms.

At the event, Mohammad Navid Safiullah, additional secretary of the environment ministry, said, "Climate change is not just an environmental challenge; it is a profound

human development crisis. The findings highlight interlinked vulnerabilities across reproductive health and rights, WASH, and livelihoods, placing women, youth, and marginalised communities at greatest risk."

Dr Ashrafi Ahmad, director general of the Directorate General of Family Planning, said, "The impacts of climate change are also a public health and human rights crisis. Our health and family planning systems must be climate- and gender-sensitive."

Nayoka Martinez-Backstrom, first secretary and deputy head of development cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden, said, "Southwestern Bangladesh is highly vulnerable. Studies like this guide systematic change, but we need support from local governments, policymakers and youth to deliver real solutions."

The workshop also marked the launch of Plan International Bangladesh's DURBAR Programme, a flagship initiative promoting climate justice and gender equality in coastal areas.

## Ducsu's role in Bangladesh's political DNA

FROM PAGE 1

In 2019, most office bearers were elected from the then pro-government Bangladesh Chhatra League, except Nurul Haq Nur, now president of Gono Adhikar Parishad, and Akhter Hossen, currently member secretary of the National Citizen Party.

Abbasi criticised the DAP, particularly its Floor Area Ratio rules, for raising housing costs and pushing urban sprawl.

"High FAR, when combined with transit-oriented development, mixed-use planning, and green building practices, can ensure compact, affordable, and sustainable cities," he said.

Before that, in 1990, just before the BNP came to power, saw Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal sweep most of the 20 Ducsu posts, including vice president

Amanullah Aman and general secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon. Around 600 candidates contested 30 panels, while over 3,000 vied for hall union

positions. Subsequent attempts in 1991, 1996, 1998, and 2005 were abandoned amid violence or political opposition, and between 2012 and 2018, repeated student demands failed to yield election

Husain elected vice president and general secretary.

Ducsu's defining role in national struggles includes raising the first Bangladeshi flag on March 2, 1971, days before formal declaration of independence, in front of the Arts Building by leaders ASM Abdur Rab and Abdul Kuddus Makhan. Over decades, the student body has consistently acted as a crucible for political leadership and activism.

Since Dhaka University's establishment in 1921, student governance evolved gradually. Initially, three residential halls -- Dhaka Hall, Muslim Hall, and Jagannath Hall -- elected Mujahidul Islam Selim as vice president and Mahbub Zaman as general secretary.

separate student bodies.

The first Ducsu elections took place in 1925-26, electing Mamata Uddin Ahmed as vice president and Yogendranath Sengupta as general secretary. Until 1953, Ducsu polls were conducted indirectly through hall unions, before transitioning to a centralised voting process.

This year's election will be the 38th in DU history. Of the previous 37, 29 were held under British rule and the Pakistan era. After independence, the first polls in 1972 elected Mujahidul Islam Selim as vice president and Mahbub Zaman as general secretary.

## Assets worth Tk 500cr seized from kingpin: CID

FROM PAGE 12

The development comes a month after the CID submitted a final report to a Dhaka court in another high-profile manpower trafficking probe involving influential individuals.

On July 15, the CID cleared a former expatriates' welfare minister, an ex-secretary,

several former lawmakers, and over 100 recruiting agencies of allegations of human trafficking and money laundering in relation to the Malaysia recruitment process.

That clearance followed a request from the Malaysian government to either review or dismiss the cases. In that case, the CID reported finding no evidence to substantiate the charges, stating that although agents had claimed to collect between Tk 4 and Tk 5 lakh from each worker, official documents showed the agreed recruitment cost was Tk 78,990.

The CID noted that

no victims had filed formal complaints about overpayments.

However, the plaintiff, Altab Khan, rejected the findings and filed a no-confidence petition, alleging that the investigating officer had been influenced by the accused parties, which, he argued, compromised the probe.



### Step into Leadership

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#### Key Responsibilities

##### Strategic Leadership

- Lead the Bank's HR, Administration and Training & Development functions, ensuring alignment with corporate vision and long-term goals.
- Act as a strategic advisor to the Managing Director & CEO and the Board on people, succession planning, governance and workforce strategy.
- Drive centralization of core operations (account services, card operations, branch administration and transaction processing) across all department A to Z ensuring uniformity, efficiency and compliance with highest quality standard human capital.

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- Lead talent acquisition, retention and leadership development to build a future-ready workforce.
- Implement data-driven HR analytics, HRIS and automation to optimize decision-making and efficiency.
- Design and enforce HR policies, SOPs and governance frameworks ensuring compliance with Bangladesh Bank and BSEC regulations.

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